

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

John:

Per your request I have had our Soviet and Chinese prepare a brief commentary on the value of the FBIS Analysis Group. As we discussed, this does not reflect a fully staffed-out OPA position, although I doubt seriously that there would be any significant changes in an official response. If you have any questions, please give me a call.



Deputy Director
Political Analysis

Attachments:
as stated

Date 27Feb80

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SUBJECT

Memo: Sub: The value of analysis group, FBIS to China Branch, OPA

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26 February 1980

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Value of Analysis Group, FBIS to China Branch,
OPA

1. Analysis Group (AG) has been a valuable complement to the efforts of China Branch to monitor and interpret Chinese internal and foreign affairs. With respect to domestic politics, China Branch analysts maintain regular telephonic contact with AG on a broad range of matters, from interpretation of a commentary in the Chinese media to verification of public appearances by prominent Chinese. AG often provides early warning of a development to be carried on the FBIS wire. (C)
2. AG has been particularly helpful in tracing media themes through the years, as the Chinese branch does not have the personnel or space resources to maintain complete media files. (C)
3. AG's work assists China Branch analysts in the time-consuming task of detailed propaganda analysis. AG's informal analytic support and analytic exchanges are useful in providing a check on impressions and research data and also serve to stimulate further analysis and research. (C)
4. China Branch finds "Trends" a useful publication. Its interpretations and analyses sometimes differ from ours and provide desirable diversity with respect to the ambiguous and sometimes nebulous nature of Chinese politics. (C)
5. Those analysts in China Branch with responsibility for Chinese relations with other communist states also find AG of value in providing generally accurate, timely and useful analysis. In current and retrospective examinations of Chinese media coverage of foreign affairs, AG is particularly adept at identifying common aspects of seemingly unrelated developments. China Branch foreign policy analysts find AG's published articles informative and comprehensive. If fault is to be found, it is AG's tendency to pull punches in venturing assessments of the importance to Chinese policy of trends indicated in the media. (C)

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